12355.f
5

PRAYER for a FAMILY.

O Thou immortal Spirit, Creator of the Univerſe, before whom all Nations of the Earth bow down and worſhip; hear us, O Lord God Omnipotent, and accept of this our Evening Sacrifice of Prayer and of Thankſgiving, which we offer with all Humility and Sincerity of Heart to thy Divine Majeſty. Thy Power and Dominion extendeth far beyond all the viſible World: Nevertheleſs not an Object which thou haſt created can ever be hidden from Thee. Shall he that made the Ear, not hear? He that made the Eye, not ſee? He that gave us Reaſon and Underſtanding, not know our innermoſt Thoughts? We are ſenſible, O Lord,

 that

that thy Eſſential Preſence is every where about us, and within us, and all our moſt ſecret Things are ever before Thee.

With the deepeſt Senſe of our Unworthineſs, we now preſent ourſelves at the Throne of thy Grace, O Father of Men and Angels, acknowledging our manifold Sins of Omiſſion and Commiſſion; and that we are no more worthy to be called thy Children. We earneſtly implore thy Pardon for all our Neglects, and all the Errors of our paſt Life; beſeeching Thee for the Sake of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt our Lord, to receive us into thy Favour and Protection: For his Sake, O Lord, whoſe Diſciples we are, and whoſe Precepts, (with the Aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit) we purpoſe to obey.

Grant

Grant us, we pray Thee, the Comfort and Help of thy Grace to enable us to withſtand all the Enemies and Hindrances of our Salvation; without which our natural Strength will be inſufficient for us.

Let the Conſideration of the Terrors of thy Wrath upon all the Doers of Iniquity, work in us that awful Senſe of Thee, that all our unruly Paſſions, and vain Deſires, may be brought in Subjection to thy Will; and let our Hearts and Affections be there fixed where only true Joys are to be found, Happineſs in a better Life, which will endure to all Eternity.

In our preſent State of Mortality, we have many Evils to fear; many Perfections to acquire; to render ourſelves acceptable in thy Sight. Lord, whither ſhall we flee but to

Thee, Almighty God, for Protection? To whom ſhall we go for ſpiritual Graces, but to the Father of all Mercies, who never fails his bleſſed Influence in aſſiſting all thoſe who diligently ſeek him.

O thou Searcher of all Hearts, behold here thy ſinful Creatures, ſtretching forth their Hands to thee, the Lord of Life, the Giver of all good Giſts, and the Diſpoſer of all Events: hoping in thy Mercy, thro' Jeſus Chriſt our Mediator and Advocate; and beſeeching Thee to turn from us all thoſe Evils, we have moſt righteouſly deſerved; and grant that in all our Troubles, we may put our whole Truſt and Confidence in Thee, and evermore ſerve Thee in Holineſs and Pureneſs of Living, with Steadfaſtneſs and Reſolution during the ſhort Stage of our Pilgrimage here

on

on Earth; till this corruptible Fleſh ſhall put on Incorruption, this mortal Life be changed into a bleſſed Immortality.

Let us meditate often on thy glorious Perfections, thou great Ruler of the World: Direct us to the Knowledge of Thee and of ourſelves; and give us Grace to be content with our Abilities and Situation here, whatever our Condition may be; becauſe it has been thy Will ſo to diſpoſe us. Enlighten our Underſtandings, O merciful Father, that we may be able to make a right Uſe and Improvement of all thy Diſpenſations towards us; being aſſured that thy unerring Wiſdom appoints for us that which is truly beſt for us.

If we ſhould be allured and ſeduced by Affluence and Proſperity; if we be depreſſed and dejected by

Troubles and Adverſity; leave us not to ourſelves; but let thy Holy Spirit ever guide and ſupport us through this State of Trial and Probation. And, O gracious God, let not any Anxieties about this preſent Life ſo far engage our Thoughts as to make us forget the far more momentous Concerns of the everlaſting State which daily approaches us.

To Thee now, O Lord, we deſire to offer up our ſincereſt Thanks and Acknowledgments for all thy Mercies paſt; for creating us in thy Image, with rational Faculties, far above all other Orders of thy Creatures here on Earth; for the happy Uſe of thoſe Powers and Faculties thou haſt endowed us with; for placing us above the Neceſſities and Miſeries that attend many of our Fellow-Creatures; for thy continual Protection

tection and Preſervation of us in the many Comforts we have in Life; but above all, for the Aſſurance of a bleſſed Immortality hereafter, promiſed by thy Son Jeſus Chriſt our Lord to all thy faithful Servants, after the few Days of this Life are paſſed away.

O thou Eternal Fountain of Goodneſs, graciouſly accept theſe our Prayers and Praiſes offered unto thy Divine Majeſty. Deliver us from all Dangers of this Night; give us comfortable Reſt and Refreſhment, if it be thy bleſſed Will; and be with us evermore through the remaining Days of our Lives, for Jeſus Chriſt's Sake; in whoſe Name we pray unto Thee, and in whoſe Words we ſum up all our Requeſts.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy Kingdom come; thy Will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven: Give us Day by Day our daily Bread; and forgive us our Treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us; and lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from Evil: For thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER

PRAYER for a FAMILY.

O Almighty God, who haſt promiſed thy eſpecial Favour to thoſe who aſſemble together with ſincere Hearts to worſhip Thee, the great Creator, Preſerver, and Governor of all Things; accept, we beſeech Thee, of this our Evening Offering to Thee of Prayer and Thankſgiving; and let not our Sins make Thee hide thy Face from us; but graciouſly receive our Prayers, and let our Praiſes and Thankſgivings be as Incenſe before Thee. We are ſenſible, O Lord, that our Exiſtence here on Earth is but of a ſhort Duration; and that after this Life we are to be judged according to the Deeds done in the Body, whether

ther good or evil. O give us Grace ſeriouſly to reflect on our Mortality; and ſuffer us not to be careleſs or inadvertent to the great Concerns of another Life. The Arrows of Death are flying around us; and let us remember that neither Youth, nor Strength, nor Health, are any Security againſt the Grave: Thouſands and Ten Thouſands are every Year ſnatched away by various Diſeaſes, by various Accidents, ſome one of which may ſoon, by thy Appointment, be allotted for our Removal hence to our final Account. In the midſt of Life we are in Death: Lord, grant that Death may not come in an Hour that we look not for it; but whenever that awful Time approaches, may we be able to look back with Satisfaction and Comfort on a well-ſpent Life; not anxious

for

for a longer Continuance in this State of Sin and Miſery, but reſign ourſelves to Thee, in humble Confidence and Joy, with the Aſſurance of a bleſſed Immortality hereafter.

O Father of Mercies, for the Sake of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt our Saviour, forgive us all our paſt Offences, whether in Thought, Word, or Deed, committed againſt thy Divine Majeſty; and grant us the Aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit, to enable us to withſtand all future Temptations. Our Hearts are not pure in thy Sight we confeſs, O Lord; our manifold Failings in our Duty, and the Perverſeneſs of our Wills contrary to thy Precepts, are known to Thee: O cleanſe the Thoughts of our Hearts by the Inſpiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify thy Holy Name.

Name. O God, forgive our Weakneſs and Infirmities; and give us the Virtues that ſhould adorn the Chriſtian Life. Put away from us all Pride and Uncharitableneſs; and deliver us, Good Lord, from all Hardneſs of Heart, and Contempt of thy Word and Commandments. Lead us in the Paths of Righteouſneſs, Truth, and Juſtice, which are Ways of Pleaſantneſs, and will ſecure to us everlaſting Peace.

We thank Thee, O God, we praiſe Thee, we magnify thy Holy Name for thy infinite Mercy to Mankind in ſending thy Son into the World, to direct us in thoſe Paths, and inſtruct us in thoſe Duties, the Practice of which will obtain thy Favour here, and an Eternity of Happineſs in a better Life after this. And, O gracious Father, ſuffer us not,

not, thy Servants who lament our Sins before Thee, to fall into that reprobate State, which will draw upon us thy wrathful Diſpleaſure, and finally end in everlaſting Deſtruction from the Preſence of the Lord.

We humbly thank Thee, O God, for thy Preſervation of us hitherto, and for all thy Mercies beſtowed upon us: They have been many, of which we are not worthy. Give us thy Grace, that we may endeavour earneſtly to render ourſelves more acceptable in thy Sight. We alſo implore thy fatherly Care and Protection of us through the remaining Days of our Lives; that thou wilt not ſuffer any Evil to come upon us, that is too heavy for us to bear. We are ſenſible, O Lord, that in thy Power, and in thy Diſpoſal, are all

Events:

Events: And therefore pray Thee, that if thy correcting Hand ſhould afflict us, we may ever remember that thou art the Lord; and that we are blind and ignorant Creatures, not knowing what is for our greateſt Good: And let us reſt aſſured that all Things work together for Good to thoſe who fear and honour Thee; and that an ample Recompence is laid up in Heaven for all ſuch of thy faithful Servants as thou permitteſt to ſuffer here.

Take us into thy Protection, Almighty God, this Night: That we may reſt ſecure from all Evil, as we put our Truſt in Thee.

May we ever retain a due Senſe of our own Unworthineſs, and of thy infinite Wiſdom and Goodneſs; that we may be content, and thankful for ſuch Neceſſaries and Comforts of

Life

Life as thou haſt thought fit to allot us; perſevering ſtedfaſtly in our Reſolutions to endeavour to obey thy Will, and wait with humble Reſignation for a happier State hereafter, which has not only been diſcovered to Mankind by the Light of natural Reaſon; but has been aſſured to us in the Revelation of thy Goſpel by thy Son Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

O heavenly Father, thou haſt promiſed to hear the Supplications of thy Servants offered unto Thee in his Name; mercifully accept theſe our Prayers: And whatever elſe is conducive to our Good here and hereafter, grant us, we beſeech Thee, for his Sake, who hath taught and commanded us, when we pray, to ſay,

Our

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy Kingdom come; thy Will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven: Give us Day by Day our daily Bread; and forgive us our Treſpaſſes, as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us; and lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from Evil: For thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

27 MR 59